



**Firefighter  
Shad Hatfield**

**INSIDE  
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# Fully involved

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## The Silent Killer

It was just another routine day at Station 81; we had responded on a couple of calls though nothing too serious. While entering reports into the computer we get a phone call from a citizen stating their carbon monoxide detectors won't stop alarming!! "We have changed the batteries and everything, but, they just keep sounding!" We jotted down their address and informed dispatch we were responding to the call. As we arrived we found the family outside of the home waiting for us. Firefighters entered the home and almost immediately found levels of carbon monoxide (CO) rising to 50 PPM. The family was not complaining of any symptoms, but, was medically evaluated and CO levels ranging from 5 PPM – 20 PPM were found using the RAD 57. The family had been canning fruits and vegetables for a majority of the day using all of the burners on their gas stove with large pots on top. Questar Gas arrived on scene and determined the cause was the gas stove and the home was ventilated and the family was educated on the causes of CO.

It was the same day, a couple of calls later we were back to entering more reports in the computer when we receive another phone call. "Our carbon monoxide detectors just keep going off and they won't stop, we've changed the batteries but that doesn't seem to help." Once again we notify dispatch that we're on our way and we met the family outside. Again, firefighters enter the home and again almost immediately the levels of CO rise to 65 PPM on our monitors. Questar Gas was contacted and they responded. This particular 2 story home had the furnace in the attic space, which in turn requires filters in predetermined locations in the ceiling in the upper level of the home and the walls of the lower ground level. Those filters had never been changed since the home was built about 3-4 years ago and they were completely clogged with at least 1/4" of dust. The clogged filters block off the return air needed for the furnace to allow for complete and proper combustion causing the production of CO. The homeowner's were educated and the home was ventilated. Again the family was evaluated for CO poisoning, no one reported any symptoms and CO levels found using the RAD 57 ranged from 2 PPM – 24 PPM between the family members.

I guess my point that I would like to make is that there are many ways CO can be produced. We respond on many false alarms, but on any given day it can be an actual event. On this day it was 2 actual events with 2 different causes, luckily the homeowners had functioning CO detectors which alerted them of the problem and both had good outcomes. This time of year is when we begin to see a rise in CO related calls so here are some facts regarding carbon monoxide.

**So, what is carbon monoxide?**

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, toxic gas. It is produced by the incomplete combustion of solid, liquid, and gaseous fuels. Appliances fueled with gas, oil, kerosene, or wood may produce CO. If appliances are not installed, maintained, and used properly, CO may accumulate to dangerous and even deadly levels in cars, homes, or poorly ventilated areas.

**Where does CO come from?**

Carbon monoxide is produced by devices that burn fuels. Any fuel burning appliance in your home is a potential source of CO. Electrical heaters and electric water heaters, toasters, etc., do not produce CO under any circumstances.

When appliances are kept in good working condition, they produce little CO. But improperly operating or improperly vented appliances can produce elevated -- even fatal -- CO concentrations in your home.

Common sources of CO include the following wood or gas fueled appliances:

- Room heaters
- Furnaces
- Charcoal grills
- Cooking ranges
- Water heaters
- Automobiles running in closed garages
- Fireplaces
- Portable generators
- Wood burning stoves

Each year, nearly 5,000 people in the United States are treated in hospital emergency rooms for CO poisoning; however, this number is believed to be an underestimate of CO poisoning because many people with CO symptoms mistake the symptoms for the flu or are misdiagnosed.

Because CO gas has no warning properties, even at toxic or life threatening levels, it is considered a silent killer. Since so many deaths occur as the result of defective or poorly operated home heating devices, CO has been termed the "silent, cold weather killer."

Although not always experienced, the initial symptoms of CO are similar to the flu (but without the fever). But it can also mimic other ailments like gastric flu or upset stomach, the symptoms include:

- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea
- Irregular breathing

**How can I prevent CO poisoning?**

Dangerous levels of CO can be prevented by proper appliance maintenance, installation, and use. Timely inspections of potentially CO-producing equipment, and the use of CO toxic level concentration alarms, are also key to avoiding a CO fatality.

[carbonmonoxidekills.com](http://carbonmonoxidekills.com)

## November Birthdays

- Dan Harris 11/10
- Bret Hutchings 11/15
- Russ Poulson 11/16
- Steve Berendson 11/18
- Houston Sim 11/18
- Fritz Borchardt 11/27
- Ray Day 11/29



### CALL TOTALS -

October 2011

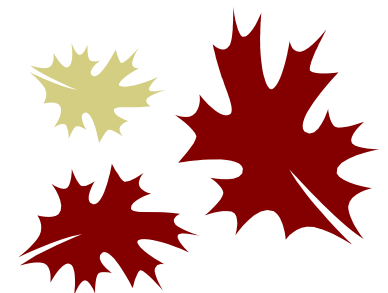
#### Station 81

Medical: 74  
Fire: 31  
Total: 105

#### Station 82

Medical: 53  
Fire: 24  
Total: 77

*Give Thanks . . .*



## Public Education Tours




With October being Fire Prevention Month both of our stations were busy with lots of preschool classes, scout groups, and also grade school classes coming through to tour the stations and to get a quick lesson on fire safety. We had a total of **3,299** kids come through our station 81 and **1,864** kids come through our station 82. For a total of **5,163!**



As you'll notice this month, the newsletter will be much more simplified. We'll continue to bring you Fully Involved each and every month, the difference being that you'll see the full publication every other month. We'll continue to keep you up to date with the latest and greatest news and important information. Remember to visit our Flickr site to check out our latest photos and videos at

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fullyinvolvednewsletter/>

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Structural Collapse Training	2 CERT	3 Structural Collapse Training	4	5 Bountiful Basket Co-op @ Station 81 & 82 Structural Collapse Training
6	7	8	9 CERT	10 Officer's Meeting 8:00am @ ST 82	Veteran's Day 11	12 Bountiful Basket Co-op @ Station 81 & 82 Live Fire Training w/SSFD
13	14 ACLS Written Test- ing Station 82 SRT Training	15 ACLS Written Testing Station 82	16 SRT Training	17 ACLS Written Test- ing Station 82 SRT Training	18	19 Bountiful Basket Co -op @ Station 81 & 82 CERT
20	21	22 Live Fire Training w/SSFD	23	24 Thanksgiving Day - City Offices Closed 	25	26 Bountiful Basket Co-op @ Station 81 & 82
27	28 EMS Training 2:00pm @ ST 82	29 EMS Training 9:00am @ ST 82	30			